

From: Marva Jacobs [mailto:gbcottage@mcn.org]
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2007 8:12 PM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: Allan Jacobs' full text of pulbic response

This is the full text of my prepared statement – amended only by spell check, corrected grammar and punctuation and completed sentences - the original copy was a handwritten rough draft in a semi-outline format.

I have BA degree in chemistry with minors in biology and mathematics; a secondary teaching credential; and approximately sixty post-graduate units mostly in a variety of science and related areas. I retired from teaching after 31 years in 1998. 28 of those years were at Point Arena High School where I taught a variety of math and science classes including Marine Science and Ecology.

Beginning in 1973, I was also a commercial fisherman during the summer, working out of Arena Cove in my own boat, for twenty seasons.

During my years in this community I have participated in many local groups, some formal and some informal, that have added to my knowledge and experience in issues relevant to the MLPA

After retiring, I successfully ran for School Board Trustee and served a full term. I have always been an avid sport fisherman.

So I understand the science of the MPLA and I know something must be done. However, I disagree with some of the methodology and the extent and location of proposed closures.

I appreciate the difficult job you have ahead of you. It will not be possible to please all people and all user groups (aka stakeholders). There must be compromises by all.

The Organization of the committees and staff and the way the MLPA program is working is much better than the previous attempts. But as a member of the part of the public who will be most directly affected by the end result, I have a major objection to the lack of availability to the public of maps, data, and other documents that were used and/or referred to during the meetings. This has not only made it difficult or impossible to follow the proceedings, but also made it virtually impossible to accurately report back to our peers, and/or to make specific comments when appropriate. My experience working with government agencies has made me very familiar with the “Ralph M. Brown Act.” If your group was part of a city, school district, county, or any other “legislative body” of a “local” agency, you would have been required to have ALL documents immediately available to the public. Apparently there is a loop-hole...

In order to maintain a good relationship with the public you are serving, I appeal to the committees and staff to adopt the “Brown Act” rules and provide the public and media copies of all maps and documents used and/or referred to in your public meetings.

I will close by reading the first five sentences of the “Ralph M. Brown Act 1999.”

“In enacting this chapter, The Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards and councils and the other public agencies in this state exist to aid in the conduct of the people’s business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly.

The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.

P.S. This took me 3 minutes and 45 seconds to read using good lighting, a podium and no microphone in my right hand. Remember I was initially allowed a short 2 minutes for my share of the public input, so I mostly winged it.

Thank you for this second opportunity to make my point more clearly.

Allan Jacobs
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